

Rangeland Resource Management System (RMS) MLRA 151 - Gulf Coast Marsh

Existing Conditions: *The property consists of 4,000 acres of brackish marsh rangeland. Chenier ridges and canal levees receive heavy grazing use. These areas also are affected by soil compaction and have poor soil tilth. Soil trafficability by livestock decreases away from the ridges which results in poor grazing distribution by livestock. Liverfluke infestations can be a problem when overgrazing in these areas. Mosquitoes and other biting insects are a major problem in summer months. Sheet erosion is a problem and is accelerated by tidal action in some areas. Some oilfield location roads have inadequate drainage outlets*

which has resulted in higher water levels and a subsequent change in vegetation. Fluctuating water levels, turbidity, and the introduction of saline water through tidal action has reduced waterfowl habitat. This area supports habitat for muskrat and nutria, and there is a concentrated "eat out" in the northeast corner of the property. Introduction of saline water also has an effect on alligator habitat.

Option I: *Grazing management consists of deferred grazing through five pastures. The following facilitating practices are planned (see map). A permanent fence will be constructed behind the Chenier Ridge (Hm soils). Permanent fences will also be constructed perpendicular to the ridge. Fences will stop in Bancker soils (Ba) as load bearing capacities prohibit grazing. Prescribed burning will be planned in northern extremes of brackish firm mineral marsh (Cr). Existing culverts under oilfield location road with a one-way flapgate and a screw gate will be installed on the eastern boundary canal.*

Existing Conditions

Option 1

Express the effects of the selected practices as N/A, if not applicable; F = facilitating; 0 = no effect; + = positive effect; and - = negative effect.

Resource Problems <
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Option II: *A prescribed grazing system consisting of a four pasture one herd system is planned. The following facilitating practices are planned (see map). Three permanent fences will be constructed perpendicular to the Chenier Ridge. Fences will stop in Bancker soils (Ba), as load bearing capacities prohibit grazing. Prescribed burning will be implemented, with approximately one-third of the brackish marsh (Cr, Ba soils) burned over a four year burn rotation. Pastures will be grazed approximately ten days and rested 30 days. Existing culverts under oilfield location road will be enlarged and/or repaired. A water control structure with a one way flapgate and a screwgate will be installed on the eastern boundary canal.*

Express the effects of the selected practices as N/A, if not applicable; F = facilitating; 0 = no effect; + = positive effect; and - = negative effect.

<div>Resource Problems</div> <div>RMS Options</div>	Soil			Water			Air			Plant			Animals - Domestic						Animals - Wildlife					
	Erosion	Condition		Quantity		Quality	Quality			Condition	Mgt.	Habitat		Management				Habitat				Management		
	Sheet & Rill	Tilth & Compaction	Trafficability	Excess Amounts	Inadequate Outlets	Turbidity	Offsite Safety	Offsite Health	Offsite Property	Productivity	Health & Vigor	Establishment, Growth, & Harvest	Food		Population Resource Balance	Animal Health		Food		Cover		Water	Pop. & Res. Bal.	
													Quality	Quantity		Parasites	Insects	Waterfowl	Furbearers	Waterfowl	Alligators	Waterfowl	Waterfowl	Furbearers
Quality Criteria Met	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Prescribed Grazing	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	
Fence	F	F	F	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	N/A	N/A	F	F	
Prescribed Burning	+	0	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	
Structure for Water Control	+	0	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	+	+	+	

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Option III: *Grazing management will consist of a seasonal five pasture, one herd system. The following facilitating practices are planned (see map). A cattle walkway will be constructed in the center of the brackish firm mineral marsh (Cr) and stopping in the brackish fluid mineral marsh (Ba). This will provide bedding grounds and increase grazing distribution. Permanent fences will stop at borrow pits of cattle-walkway and at bayou on east end of property. Existing culverts under oilfield location road will be enlarged and/or repaired. A water control structure with a one-way flapgate and a screwgate will be installed on the eastern boundary canal. Prescribed burning will consist of the top three pastures burning on a four year cycle. Cattle will graze these pastures in the fall to get the most utilization while biting insects problems are low. Cattle will gradually be moved south into pastures adjoining Chenier Ridge in late fall/early spring.*

Express the effects of the selected practices as N/A, if not applicable; F = facilitating; 0 = no effect; + = positive effect; and - = negative effect.

Resource Problems
